

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0382

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AU, US
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC UPDATE ON AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR SCHOBBER

1. FOLLOWING IS BIO
UPDATE ON DR. KARL HERBERT SCHOBBER
WHO IS EXPECTED
TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY AS NEW
AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

2. KARL SCHOBBER, A VETERAN DIPLOMAT AND ECONOMIC SPECIALIST,
HAS SERVED AS CHIEF OF ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT OF AUSTRIAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE RETURNING FROM HIS LAST OVERSEAS
ASSIGNMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN. POSTED IN SWEDEN FROM
1969-1974, HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS CHIEF OF AUSTRIAN MISSION
TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (1965-1969) AND DIRECTOR OF
DEPARTMENT OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN
MINISTRY (1962-1965).

3. SON OF CIVIL SERVANT, SCHOBBER WAS BORN 19 JULY 1916
IN IMST, TYROL. HE WAS EDUCATED AT CONSULAR ACADEMY AND
UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, RECEIVING A DOCTORATE IN LETTERS FROM
THE LATTER. SCHOBBER WORKED BRIEFLY IN ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT
OF FEDERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (1947-1948) BEFORE
JOINING FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1948. IN 1949 HE WAS POSTED
TO WASHINGTON (1950-54). HE RETURNED TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY IN 1954 AND SERVED FOR THREE YEARS AS DEPUTY
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DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL. SCHOBBER WAS APPOINTED CHARGE
D'AFFAIRES IN DENMARK IN 1957 AND SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME
MINISTER (1959) AND AMBASSADOR (1961).

4. AMBASSADOR SCHOBBER IS MARRIED TO EBBA NEE VON
KLEINWAECHTER (DAUGHTER OF THE FORMER AUSTRIAN
AMBASSADOR TO U.S.). HIS MATERNAL GRANDFATHER, DR.

ALFRED EBENHOCH, WAS GOVERNOR OF UPPER AUSTRIA AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SOMETIME PRIOR TO THE FIRST AUSTRIAN REPUBLIC (1918-1938). HE AND HIS WIFE ARE PRACTICING CATHOLICS. SCHOBER SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND FRENCH AND GOOD SWEDISH AND DANISH. THEY HAVE FOUR CHILDREN THE OLDEST BEING 25. POLITICALLY, SCHOBER IS REPORTED TO BE CLOSE TO THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP).

5. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO KNOW SCHOBER FIND HIM TO BE VERY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD U.S. HE RECALLS FONDLY HIS FIRST OVERSEAS TOUR AS A YOUNG OFFICER IN WASHINGTON. HE MET AND MARRIED HIS WIFE THERE AND THREE OF HIS FOUR CHILDREN WERE BORN IN THE U.S. SCHOBER IS HIGHLY PLEASED AT THE PROSPECT OF RETURNING TO WASHINGTON.

6. ONE OF SCHOBER'S DEPUTIES RECENTLY TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT SCHOBER'S DESIGNATION FOR WASHINGTON WAS ONE OF THE ALMOST UNIQUE AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENTS THAT EVERYONE INVOLVED CONSIDERED IDEAL. MFA COLLEAGUES CONSIDER SCHOBER HIGHLY COMPETENT AND PERSONALLY PLEASANT AND EASY TO DEAL WITH. WE WOULD AGREE WITH THIS ASSESSMENT. HE IS INTELLIGENT, QUICK, PROFESSIONAL, HIGHLY PERSONABLE, ATTRACTIVE AND LOW KEY. HIS EXPERIENCE IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SHOULD BE OF PARTICULAR VALUE SINCE IT IS IN THOSE AREAS WHERE BLISTERS IN U.S.-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS MOST OFTEN OCCUR. AT SAME TIME HE HAS SOUND UNDERSTANDING OF BROAD POLITICAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ECONOMIC ISSUES FACING WORLD WHICH SHOULD BE HELPFUL ON MANY INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES WHERE WE SEEK GOA COOPERATION AND SUPPORT. BUCHANAN

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Sent Date: 18-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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